Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 270526Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 4216

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, VS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH PRG

1. IN CONVERSATION JUNE 27 ON OTHER SUBJECT WITH EMBOFF, DAVID GOSS (ASST SECRETARY, SOUTH ASIA BRANCH, AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) REVIEWED STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH PRG. CONTACTS ARE LIMITED TO PRG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TIEN IN HANOI. GOA HAS BEEN TOLD THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT AUSTRALIA WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SAIGON IN LATE JULY OR AUGUST. CANADIAN AND BRITISH EMBASSIES MAY BE ABLE TO OPEN IN SAIGON IN LATE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. FRENCH, JAPANESE, SWISS, AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES IN SAIGON ARE REPORTEDLY STILL IN PLACE, BUT NOT ABLE TO FUNCTION TO ANY EXTENT.

2. GOSS SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND (WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO PRG) RECENTLY VISITED SAIGON AND WALKED PAST AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY THERE, WHICH IS ON SEVENTH FLOOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CARAVELLE HOTEL. SOVIET AMBASSADOR REPORTED TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

BANGKOK THAT PREMISES APPEARED UNDISTURBED.

3. GOSS GAVE VIEW THAT NO REAL DECISION ON OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE UNTIL PRG IS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONING. HE EXPRESSED FURTHER CIEW THAT HE HAS NAGGING SUSPICION THAT PRG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI IS REALLY QTE NOT PLUGGED IN ANYWHERE END QTE AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, FOREGOING MAY NOT HAVE ANY REAL MEANING.

4. GOSS SAID THAT GOA HAS OFFERED A\$2.5 MILLION IN COMMODITIES TO PRG, CONSISTING LARGELY OF CANNED BEEF, SUGAR, AND CORRUGATED ROOFING. GOA HAS ALSO SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING FORMER PROJECT AID PROGRAMS PREVIOUSLY UNDER WAY WITH GVN. IF THESE OFFERS DO NOT RPT NOT DRAW POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PRG, THIS WILL BE FAIRLY FIRM INDICATION PRG NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN AID. GREEN

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